



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/777,257  | 02/12/2004  | Joachim Koerner      | Ruff 19             | 5395             |
| 23474   | 7590        | 11/30/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.<br>2026 RAMBLING ROAD<br>KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631 |             |                      | PATEL, NIHIL B      |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 3743                |                  |
| DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005   |             |                      |                     |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|                              | 10/777,257             | KOERNER ET AL.      |
| Examiner                     | Art Unit               |                     |
| Nihir Patel                  | 3743                   |                     |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 10-19 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., “**independent drying cycle of the vibrating unit**” or for a time-separated drying time of any configuration” and “providing a time-separated drying time for removing residue from the dosing chamber”) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The arguments presented for examining Hess reference failing to show “**independent drying cycle of the vibrating unit**” or for a time-separated drying time of any configuration” and “providing a time-separated drying time for removing residue from the dosing chamber” are not commensurate with the scope of the newly presented claims.

### *Specification*

#### **Content of Specification**

- (a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.
- (d) The Names Of The Parties To A Joint Research Agreement: See 37 CFR 1.71(g).

(e) Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.

Or alternatively, Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix": See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.

(f) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:

- (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."
- (2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."

(g) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

(h) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.

(i) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known

in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.

- (j) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet or electronic page (37 CFR 1.52(b)(3)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(i)-(p).
- (k) Abstract of the Disclosure: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. In an international application which has entered the national stage (37 CFR 1.491(b)), the applicant need not submit an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if an abstract was published with the international application under PCT Article 21. The abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the abstract that will be used by the USPTO. See MPEP § 1893.03(e).
- (l) Sequence Listing, See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 and MPEP §§ 2421-2431. The requirement for a sequence listing applies to all sequences disclosed in a given application, whether the sequences are claimed or not. See MPEP § 2421.02.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 10, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the

claimed invention. The claims contain subject matter (“**pausing for a pre-determined time separation period**”, “**activating the time delay unit for a pre-determined time separation**”, “**deactivating the vibration unit and initiating a time delay**”, and “**activating the vibrating unit over a drying time period**”) which was not described in the specification.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hess et al. (US 6,196,219). Referring to claim 10, Hess discloses a liquid droplet spray device for an inhaler suitable for respiratory therapies that comprises a micro-dosing device 5 having a dosing chamber 9 for the at least partial reception of a liquid quantity and with which is associated at least one discharge opening 14, a vibrating unit 10 in operative connection with at least one boundary surface of the dosing chamber in order to vibrate the same for a discharge process, a delivery function unit, connected to the vibrating unit, for activating the latter during a delivery time period, and drying function unit, the method comprising the steps of activating the vibrating unit during a delivery time period; pausing for a pre-determined time separation period (**Inherently there is a pause between the inhalation period and the drying period**); and activating the drying function unit to remove liquid residues from the dosing chamber (see **figures 2 through 5**).

**Referring to claim 11**, Hess discloses a method step wherein the delivery function unit and the drying function unit are parts of a common electronic control unit (see column 7 lines 25-35).

**Referring to claim 12**, Hess discloses a micro-dosing device **5** having a dosing chamber **9** for the at least partial reception of a liquid quantity and with which is associated at least one discharge opening **14**, a vibrating unit **10** in operative connection with at least one boundary surface of the dosing chamber in order to vibrate the same for a discharge process, a delivery function unit, connected to the vibrating unit, for activating the latter during a delivery time period, and a drying function unit for removing liquid residues from the dosing chamber, configures for activation in time-separated manner with respect to the delivery function unit (**Inherently there is a pause between the inhalation period and the drying period**), wherein the delivery function unit and drying device are parts of a common electrical control device provided with a time function element for coordinating the time-separated activating processes of the delivery function unit and the drying function unit, the method comprising the steps of activating the delivery function unit to dispense a medium; activating the time delay unit for a pre-determined time separation (**Inherently there is a pause between the inhalation period and the drying period**); and activating the drying function unit for a drying process.

**Referring to claim 13**, Hess discloses a method step wherein the drying function unit is connected to the vibrating unit and further comprising the step of activating the vibrating unit for the drying process (see figure 5 and column 7 lines 1 through 45).

**Referring to claim 14**, Hess discloses a method that comprises the steps of activating the vibrating unit for a delivery time period for the discharge of the liquid quantity, deactivating the

vibrating unit and initiating a time delay (**Inherently there is a pause between the inhalation period and the drying period**, and initiating a drying process to remove liquid residues remaining in the dosing chamber (see **figure 5 and column 7 lines 1 through 45**).

**Referring to claim 15**, Hess discloses a method wherein the drying process further comprises activating the vibrating unit over a drying time period (see **figure 5 and column 7 lines 1 through 45**).

**Referring to claim 16**, Hess discloses a method step wherein the drying process further comprises the step of activating a heating device affecting the dosing chamber (see **column 7 lines 1-45**).

**Referring to claim 17**, Hess discloses a method step wherein the drying process further comprises the step of activating a delivery device for pumping out the liquid residues (see **column 7 lines 1-45**).

**Referring to claim 18**, Hess discloses a method step wherein the drying process further comprises the step of activating a heating device affecting the dosing chamber (see **column 7 lines 1-45**).

**Referring to claim 19**, Hess discloses a method step wherein the drying process comprises the step of activating a delivery device for pumping out the liquid residues (see **column 7 lines 1-45**).

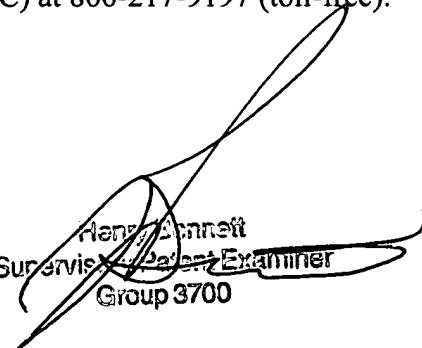
### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nihir Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-4803. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 4:30 every other Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on (571) 272-4791. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nihir Patel  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

  
Henry Bennett  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700